Ice factories.

* 18 Q.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to instal ice factories to produce ice for preserving fish;

(b) whether machinery has been purchased, and if so, at what cost and for how many factories; and

(c) where these factories will be established?

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Two four-ton ice plants have been purchased from the Army Disposals at a cost of Rs. 34,000 each. Orders have been placed for the supply of two units of ice factories-*cum*-cold stores at total estimated cost of Rs. 4,20,000. It is proposed to instal two ice-making plants as well as two ice factories-*cum*-cold stores.

" (c) The two ice-making plants are proposed to be installed one at Tanur (Malabar district) and the other at Adirampatnam (Tanjore district). The two ice factories-*cum*-cold stores will be installed, one at Mangalore and the other at West Hill."

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that the following message, dated the 24th February 1948, from the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly has been received by me :—

'In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Prohibition Amendment Bill (L.A. Bill No. 11 of 1948), as passed by the Assembly, for the concurrence of the Council.' "

III.—BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1948-49.

3-8 p.m. THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Sir, I rise to present to the House the Revised Estimates for the current year, 1947–48, and the Budget Estimates for the next year, 1948–49. Introductory.

2. Since my predecessor presented the budget estimates of the current year in March 1947, many momentous events have happened which have a far-reaching and intimate relationship with the future of our country. The decision of the British Government to transfer power before the 30th June 1948 and the actual implementation of it on the 15th August 1947 is the grandest and the most memorable of them all. There cannot be a greater day for the country than that day when the freedom for which the people strove, worked and suffered innumerable privations and sacrificed in a manner which has no parallel,